

P. Scott, Vernon
 Soc. 4.0114 Topaz

Nudity and Violence Not Needed to Shock, Says Shockmaster Hitch

By VERNON SCOTT

HOLLYWOOD — (UPI) — Alfred Hitchcock, rotund and rubicund, celebrated his 70th birthday this month filled with enthusiasm over the completion of his 51st motion picture.

Appearing surprisingly as he did 20 years ago, Hitchcock views today's young turks of film-making as his contemporaries.

"I feel about 35 years old," said the master of suspense dramas.

"These new schools of directors are made up of young men who are given 16 mm. cameras and told to photograph something, so they come up with a lot of tricks.

"I don't believe in improvisation on the set. I can visualize an entire picture on paper from the beginning. It's better to improvise in your office before the film starts.

"But I'm all in favor of innovation. They've called me the father of the nouvelle vogue. I used a hand-held camera with a gyroscope in it all the way back in 1927.

"This multiple screen business and other visual tricks prove nothing. You get the same effect with a montage.

"In almost 40 years of directing I've only made 51 pictures. I can't churn them out because I work with the writer from the very beginning.

"The story, and how you tell it, is the only thing in films. And self-plagiarism accounts for style. I am guilty of that.

"I begin with the germ of an idea and stay with the movie until it is in the theater," he said. "I don't believe a director should walk into a picture, do his job and walk out.

"This sex and nudity thing is transitional. So is violence.

"The most shocking effect in any of my pictures was the shower scene in 'Psycho.' It was done entirely by suggestion. No knife touched any body. I used 78 different camera positions for 45 seconds of film. No breast or backside was exposed to the camera.



HIS 51st FILM—Alfred Hitchcock (you know he's the one on the right) directs Dany Robin and Michel Piccoli in his latest movie, "Topaz."

"And I made the film in black and white deliberately so people wouldn't see the blood. It demonstrates what a director can do without being blatant, and still achieve the feeling of shock."

In his new Universal picture, "Topaz," a story of intrigue during the Cuban missile crisis, Hitchcock has no marquee stars to worry about.

He still believes a good motion picture can be made for \$2 million without having to pay an actor or actress half the cost of the film.